

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line, the end segment having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising a receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment and extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment.

2. Apparatus of claim 1, the chamber having a length, wherein the extensions are positioned at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the chamber.

3. Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the receptacle which leads to the chamber.

4. Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the receptacle supports means for engaging and supporting a lure.

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7. Apparatus for coupling a first end segment of a first line having an outer diameter and a second end segment of a second line having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising:

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a body including a first receptacle for receiving and securing one of the first and second end segments and an opposing receptacle for receiving and securing the other of the first and second end segments;

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the first receptacle including a first chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the one of the first and second end segments and first extensions extending into the first chamber for impinging against the one of the first and second end segments; and

the second receptacle including a second chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the other of the first and second end segments and second extensions extending into the

second chamber for impinging against the other of the first and second end segments.

8. Apparatus of claim 7, the first chamber including a length, wherein the first extensions extend into the first chamber at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the first chamber.

9. Apparatus of claim 7, the second chamber including a length, wherein the second extensions extend into the second chamber at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the second chamber.

10. Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the first extensions are directed away from an open end of the first receptacle which leads to the first chamber.

11. Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the second extensions are directed away from an open end of the second receptacle which leads to the second chamber.

12. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line, the end segment having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising:

a receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter;

the receptacle deformable between shortened and lengthened conditions, the inner diameter being greater than the outer diameter of the end segment in the shortened condition of the receptacle and at least substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment in the lengthened condition of the receptacle; and

a biasing element supported by the receptacle for biasing the receptacle into the lengthened condition.

13. Apparatus of claim 12, wherein the biasing element is integral with the receptacle.

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14. Apparatus of claim 12, wherein the receptacle supports extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment.

15. Apparatus of claim 14, the chamber including a length, wherein the extensions extend into the chamber at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the chamber.

16. Apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the receptacle which leads to the chamber.

17. Apparatus of claim 12, wherein the receptacle supports means for engaging a lure.

18. Apparatus of claim 17, wherein the means for engaging comprises a line.

19. Apparatus of claim 17, wherein the means for engaging comprises a coupler.

20. Apparatus for coupling a first end segment of a first line and a second end segment of a second line, the first and second end segments each having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising:

a body including a first receptacle for receiving and securing one of the first and second end segments and an opposing receptacle for receiving and securing the other of the first and second end segments;

the first receptacle including:

a first chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter,

the first receptacle deformable between a shortened condition and a lengthened condition, the inner diameter of the first receptacle being greater than the outer diameter of the one of the first and second end segments in the shortened condition of the first receptacle and at least substantially equal to the outer diameter of the one of the first and second end segments in the lengthened condition of the first receptacle, and

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a first biasing element supported by the first receptacle for biasing the first receptacle into the lengthened condition; and

the second receptacle including:

a second chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter,

the second receptacle deformable between a shortened condition and a lengthened condition, the inner diameter of the second receptacle being greater than the outer diameter of the other of the first and second end segments in the shortened condition of the second receptacle and at least substantially equal to the outer diameter of the other of the first and second end segments in the lengthened condition of the second receptacle, and

a second biasing element supported by the second receptacle for biasing the second receptacle into the lengthened condition.

21. Apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first biasing element is integral with the first receptacle.

22. Apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first receptacle supports first extensions extending into the first chamber for impinging against the one of the first and second end segments.

23. Apparatus of claim 22, the first chamber including a length, wherein the first extensions extend into the first chamber at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the first chamber.

24. Apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first extensions are directed away from an open end of the first receptacle which leads to the first chamber.

25. Apparatus of claim 20, wherein the second biasing element is integral with the second receptacle.

26. Apparatus of claim 20, wherein the second receptacle supports extensions extending into the second

chamber for impinging against the other of the first and second end segments.

27. Apparatus of claim 26, the second chamber including a length, wherein the extensions extend into the second chamber at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the second chamber.

28. Apparatus of claim 26, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the second receptacle which leads to the second chamber.

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29. Apparatus comprising:

a length of line having opposing ends;

a receptacle supported by one of the opposing ends for receiving and securing an end segment of a fishing line, the end segment having an outer diameter;

the receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment and extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment.

30. Apparatus of claim 29, the chamber having a length, wherein the extensions are positioned at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the chamber.

31. Apparatus of claim 29, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the receptacle which leads to the chamber.

32. Apparatus comprising:

a length of line having opposing ends;

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a receptacle supported by one of the opposing ends for receiving and securing an end segment of a fishing line, the end segment having an outer diameter;

the receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter;

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the receptacle deformable between shortened and lengthened conditions, the inner diameter being greater than the outer diameter of the end segment in the shortened condition of the receptacle and at least substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment in the lengthened condition of the receptacle; and

a biasing element supported by the receptacle for biasing the receptacle into the lengthened condition.

33. Apparatus of claim 32, wherein the biasing element is integral with the receptacle.

34. Apparatus of claim 32, wherein the receptacle supports extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment.

35. Apparatus of claim 34, the chamber including a length, wherein the extensions extend into the chamber at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the chamber.

36. Apparatus of claim 34, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the receptacle which leads to the chamber.

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